

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 4 SECTION 1

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Group urging death for spies rebuffed

NORFOLK, Va.—A conservative lawyers' group seeking the death penalty for espionage was barred by a federal judge Wednesday from joining in the government's case against accused Soviet spy Arthur Walker. "The court is of the opinion that competent counsel represent the government and the defendant and that they are fully capable of representing the best interest of the public and the defendant," wrote District Judge Calvitt Clarke. The Washington Legal Foundation, which favors capital punishment for acts of espionage, filed papers Tuesday in a bid to enter the case. Walker, 50, a retired Navy petty officer from Virginia Beach, is the third member of his family accused of spying for the Soviets. His trial is set Aug. 5 in federal court in Norfolk.